

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13-16, 23-25 and 27-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. During the telephone interview of May 11, 2009, however, Applicants' representative explained to the Examiner that a height of the elevation being greater than 3 microns was not critical or essential to the practice of the invention. Rather, Applicants' representative pointed out to the Examiner the word "preferably" which appears on page 11, line 24, of Applicants' specification. The Advisory Action dated June 5, 2009 indicated that the reply under 35 U.S.C. § 112 had been overcome.

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 23, 24 and 26-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takenaka (JP 2001-213,064) in combination with Kuroki (JP 57-103862). It is respectfully submitted, however, that Applicants' claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

As discussed during the telephone interview of May 11, 2009, Kuroki discloses depressions and elevated portions. Kuroki, however, lacks Applicants' claimed feature of:

... forming a plurality of depressions in the first surface in the at least one squeegee area, each depression surrounded by a respective periphery having an elevation higher than an elevation of the first surface ...

This is illustrated by Applicants' Fig. 3 in which cleaning part 6 is surrounded, for example, by swollen portion 7.

The prior art of record lacks Applicants' claimed "depression surrounded by a respective periphery having an elevation higher than an elevation of the first surface." During the telephone interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed Fig. 4 of the Kuroki patent. Fig. 4 of Kuroki illustrated elevated portions 8' and the depressed regions 5. This is different than Applicants' claimed invention in which each depression is surrounded by a periphery with higher elevation.

The advantage of Applicants' claimed feature is described in the originally filed application at page 10, line 16 et seq. where it is stated:

Using the method discussed above, high viscous paste of a squeegee edge part is removed at the cleaning part before past is filled in through-holes in a product. Therefore, solid past is not remained at the through-holes in the product. Thus, when the mask films are peeled, possibility that a part of the past is removed to a side of the mask films and quality of connection is adversely affected can be reduced.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

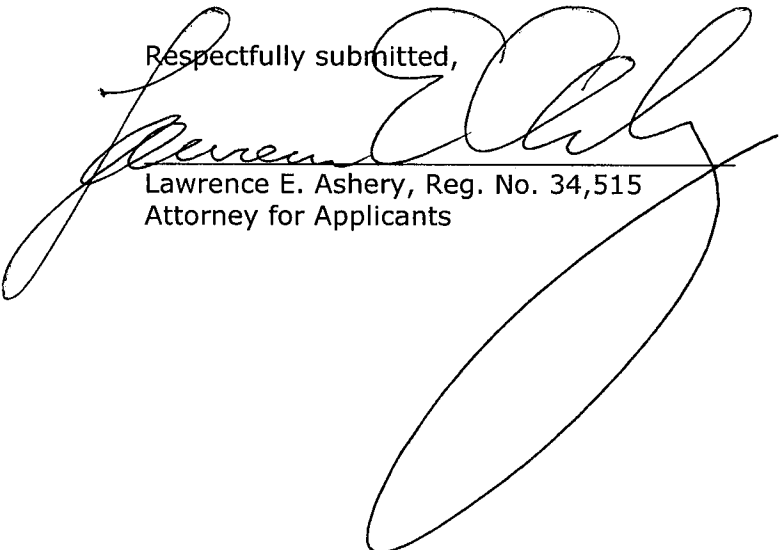
Claims 2, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

The remaining claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claim 6 and 25 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Takenaka and Kuroki in further combination Kozo (JP 2001-7514). These claims are also patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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